

Cornerstone Bible Church

Systematic Theology

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Acknowledgment & Credits:

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LECTURES ON INTRODUCTION TO
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY TAUGHT BY
RAFAEL ALCANTARA IN 2009 DURING THE
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EXPANDED FOR THIS CLASS

THEOLOGY PROPER

General Contents:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Trinity
4. Creation
5. Providence

The Attributes of God

The Attributes of God

Enumeration:

- 1) The Aseity of God
- 2) The Eternity of God
- 3) The Immutability of God
- 4) The Omnipresence of God
- 5) The Unity of God
- 6) The Spirituality (Invisibility) of God
- 7) God's Omniscience
- 8) God's Wisdom
- 9) **The Sovereignty of God**

9. The Sovereignty of God

I - The double distinction of God's will

- a) Decretive
- b) Preceptive

II - The Sovereignty of God and its extension

- a) The good things
- b) Bad things
- c) Casual events
- d) The eternal destiny of human beings

III - The Sovereignty of God: objections

IV - The Sovereignty of God: applications

9. The Sovereignty of God

I - INTRODUCTION

“The Sovereignty of God can be defined as the exercise of His Supremacy. God always and only works as He pleases. Nobody can frustrate or thwart His purposes...” Arthur Pink - The Attributes of God -

Of the Attributes of God this is the one which has brought more controversy in the history of the church

- 4th Century: Augustine versus Pelagious
- 16th Century: Calvin versus Arminious
- Today: the controversy remains (sadly, only at higher circles)... the modern church is more interested in programs, relevancy and music

9. The Sovereignty of God

1 - The double distinction of God's will

In order to better understand the sovereignty of God it is necessary to consider it in the context of what some theologians have distinguished as **God's decretive will** (or secret) and his **preceptive will** (revealed) will (**Dt 29:29, Acts 1:7**)

God's **revealed will** are those precepts which God has made known to us (**Exodus 20, Mt 6:10, 1Tes 4:3**)

God's **decreed will** is what He has purposed from eternity, and that will irrevocably take place in the course of time.

God's sovereignty has to do with this latter aspect of God's will. **Rom 9:19**

9. The Sovereignty of God

1 - The double distinction of God's will

Dan 4:34-35 "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'

9. The Sovereignty of God

1 - The double distinction of God's will

Is 14:24,27 24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand... 26 "This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. 27 "For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"

Ps 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

9. The Sovereignty of God

1 - The double distinction of God's will

Sometimes the Bible presents a “tension” between God's revealed will and His decretive will

PRECEPTIVE

Mt 23:37-38

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.
38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

DECRETIVE

Is 6:9-10 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.' 10 "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed." **comp Mt 13:13**
13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
14 "And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled,

9. The Sovereignty of God

I - The double distinction of God's will

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PRECEPTIVE

Heb 10:1-5

“Behold I come to do your will, as in the scroll of the Book it is written of Me” Heb 10:1-5

Acts 2:23

this *Man*, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

DECRETIVE

Lk 22:42 “Father, if Thou art willing, remove this **cup** from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.”

Comp Ps 69:4

Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies, **What I did not steal, I then have to restore.**

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PRECEPTIVE

1 Tim 2:1-4

‘...3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Pe 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance

DECRETIVE

Jn 6:60 & 65

"**No one can come to Me**, unless the Father who sent **Me** draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Mt 11:27

27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and **no one knows the Son**, except **the Father**; nor does anyone know **the Father**, except **the Son**, and anyone to whom **the Son** wills to reveal *Him*.

9. The Sovereignty of God

1 - The double distinction of God's will

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My humble advise is: be prudent and cautious in your explanations, let each text speaks in its context and let your Theology flow from Scripture and not all the way around

PRECEPTIVE

Ezekiel 18:4,31-32 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine.
The soul who sins will die

It is not either or, but both... God is one and indivisible

DECRETIVE

Ezekiel 18:31-32 ...“ Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? **"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,"** declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live.“

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